

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 are now pending in the application, with Claim 1 being the sole independent claim. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein. Claims 1, 2, 4-7 and 9 have been amended herein.

Claim 5 was objected to for allegedly being of improper dependent form. Claim 5 has been amended herein to depend from Claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to Claim 5 are respectfully requested.

The Examiner noted that Claim 6 was missing from the original application papers and that Claims 7-11 had been renumbered. It should be noted, however, that in the Preliminary Amendment that accompanied the original application papers on January 18, 2002, the claims were renumbered to compensate for missing Claim 6. Favorable consideration is requested.

Claims 1-4, 6 and 8-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,623,937 (Watanabe). Claims 5 and 7 were rejected under § 103 as being unpatentable over Watanabe in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,194,898 (Costrop et al.). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention relates to an image reading apparatus including an original plate adapted to support an original, a longitudinal reading unit, a supporting member, a movement unit, and first and second positioning portions. The longitudinal reading unit is adapted to read an original image and includes, in a frame, a light source, a light receiving unit, and an imaging unit adapted to form an original image on the light receiving unit. The supporting member is adapted to support the frame of the longitudinal reading unit, and has a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion engaged with the frame. The movement unit is adapted to move the supporting member relative to the original plate in a direction perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of the longitudinal reading unit. The first positioning portion is adapted to determine a position of the frame relative to the supporting member in a longitudinal direction by engaging with the first engaging portion of the supporting member. The first positioning portion is provided substantially at a central portion of the frame. The second positioning portion is adapted to determine a position of the frame relative to the supporting member in a moving direction by engaging with the second engaging portion. The second positioning portion engages with the second engaging portion while being afforded some degree of latitude in the longitudinal direction.

Watanabe discloses a scanning apparatus including a document table, an exposure lamp, a mirror, a rod lens array and a CCD image sensor. However, Applicants respectfully submit that in Watanabe the lamp 56, CCD sensor 64, mirror 60 and rod lens array 62 are all supported on carriage 58, as shown in Figure 4. Reading carriage 58 of

Watanabe on the frame recited in Applicants' Claim 1, Watanabe cannot be said to disclose or suggest at least a supporting member adapted to support the frame of the longitudinal reading unit, with the supporting member having a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion to engage with the frame, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Watanabe disclose or suggest the features of the first and second positioning portions recited in that claim.

Thus, Watanabe fails to disclose or suggest important features of the present invention recited in independent Claim 1.

Costrop et al. relates to an optical scanning apparatus in which a scanning unit 3 is supported by a hinge 22. Costrop et al., however, does not disclose or suggest a supporting member adapted to support a frame of a longitudinal reading unit and including a first engaging portion and a second engaging portion to engage with the frame, as is recited in independent Claim 1. Nor does Costrop et al. disclose or suggest that a first positioning portion, which is adapted to determine a position of the frame relative to the supporting member in the longitudinal direction, is provided substantially at a central portion of the frame, and that a second positioning portion, which is adapted to determine a position of the frame relative to the supporting member in a moving direction, engages with the second engagement portion while being afforded some degree of latitude in the longitudinal direction, as is also recited in independent Claim 1.

Accordingly, Costrop et al. fails to remedy the deficiencies of Watanabe noted above with respect to independent Claim 1.

Thus, independent Claim 1 is patentable over the citations of record.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention is patentably defined by independent Claim 1. Dependent Claims 2, 4-7, 9 and 10 are also allowable, in their own right, for defining features of the present invention in addition to those recited in independent Claim 1. Individual consideration of dependent claims is requested.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objection and rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowability are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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